

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARIS 15798 01 OF 02 271837Z

47

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 ACDA-19 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 NIC-01 SAM-01 SCI-06 DRC-01

/140 W

----- 056460

R 271824Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0391

INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 15798

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH, UR, US, FR

SUBJECT: VIKTOR LOUIS ARTICLE ON SINO-SOVIET TENSION

REF: (A) MOSCOW 10029; (B) HONG KONG 7219

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: EXCLUSIVE ARTICLE BY SOVIET JOURNALIST
VIKTOR LOUIS IN FRANCE SOIR EVENING OF JUNE 26 STRESSES
TENSION ON SINO-SOVIET BORDER. IN RAISING POSSIBILITY
THAT SOVIET HELICOPTER CREW MAY BE TRIED BY CHINESE ALONG
LINES OF GARY POWERS TRIAL IN MOSCOW IN 1960, LOUIS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PARIS 15798 01 OF 02 271837Z

CLAIMS MOSCOW PAPERS SEEM TO BE PREPARING THEIR READERS

FOR THE WORST BY RECALLING MARCH 1969 BORDER SKIRMISHES.
END SUMMARY.

2. LOUIS LEADS OFF BY NOTING THAT SINO-SOVIET BORDER REGION IS FAR FROM CALM. HOWEVER, HE CITES A LITERATURNAYA GAZETA CORRESPONDENT'S PRAISE OF SOVIET FRONTIER GUARDS FOR THEIR RESISTANCE TO CHINESE PROVOCATIONS AND SUCCESS IN AVOIDING ACTUAL CONFLICTS. THE CORRESPONDENT IS QUOTED AS CONCLUDING THAT SOVIET POLICY IS "TO STAY CALM IN THE FACE OF FRONTIER VIOLATIONS BY THE CHINESE."

3. LOUIS GOES ON TO SAY THAT INCIDENTS HAVE OCCURRED NEVERTHELESS AND HE THEN PROCEEDS TO DISCUSS THAT OF THE SOVIET HELICOPTER. HE RIDICULES THE CHINESE CONTENTION THAT ITS MISSION WAS ONE OF ESPIONAGE BY ALLUDING TO SOVIET SATELLITE CAPABILITIES. "CAN ONE CONCLUDE THAT SOVIET SATELLITES ARE FLYING OVER CHINA?" HE ASKS, TO WHICH HE ANSWERS, "MAYBE." TURNING HIS ATTENTION TO THE FATE OF THE SOVIET CREW, LOUIS WRITES THAT "ACCORDING TO MOSCOW RUMORS, THEY MAY HAVE BEEN DISPLAYED PUBLICLY IN A MOBILE CAGE." COMMENT. THIS STATEMENT IS GUARDED AND NOT STATED AS FACT, CONTRARY TO VERSION NOTED REFTEL B AND IN LE FIGARO COMMENTARY WHICH HAS LOUIS DECLARING THAT THE CREW "HAS BEEN EXHIBITED ALL ACROSS CHINA IN IRON CAGES." END COMMENT.

4. LOUIS CLAIMS THAT A NUMBER OF PEOPLE ARE PREDICTING A TRIAL ON THE PATTERN OF THAT HELD FOR GARY POWERS IN MOSCOW IN 1960. IT IS AT THIS POINT THAT HE SAYS, "AS IF WANTING TO PREPARE THEIR READERS FOR THE WORST, MOSCOW NEWSPAPERS, IN TREATING THE SUBJECT, RARELY FAIL

TO RECALL THE SINO SOVIET BORDER INCIDENTS OF MARCH 1969." HE NOTES POINTEDLY THAT THE TOMBS OF FALLEN SOVIET SOLDIERS ARE CARED FOR WITH AS MUCH ATTENTION AS THOSE OF THE SOVIET VICTIMS OF SINO-SOVIET FRONTIER INCIDENTS IN 1929.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PARIS 15798 01 OF 02 271837Z

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARIS 15798 02 OF 02 271902Z

47

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 ACDA-19 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 NIC-01 SAM-01 SCI-06 DRC-01

/140 W

----- 056859

R 271824Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0392

INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 15798

5. THE BALANCE OF THE ARTICLE IS DEVOTED TO THE SOVIET PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE CHINESE. HE CONTRASTS VOA USE OF TERM "CHINESE PEOPLES REPUBLIC" WITH SOVIET MEDIA WHICH REFER ONLY TO "CHINA" OR "PEKING," THE LATTER OF WHICH IS REGARDED AS A SYNONYM FOR "UNFRIENDLY" BY THE AVERAGE RUSSIAN. HE NOTES THE PROBLEMS FOR SOVIETS DESIRING TO VISIT CHINA AND QUOTES OLEG BORISOV IN IZVESTIYA AS CLAIMING THERE WERE 900 ANTI-SOVIET ARTICLES

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PARIS 15798 02 OF 02 271902Z

LAST YEAR IN THE CHINESE PRESS -- TWICE AS MANY AS IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR. ON THE OTHER HAND, LOUIS ASSERTS

THAT SOVIET RADIO STATIONS BROADCAST PROGRAMS ON CHINA 24 HOURS A DAY "WHICH ARE NOT FRIENDLY IN THE LEAST." CITING WESTERN OBSERVERS, LOUIS SAYS THIS CAMPAIGN IS PAYING OFF, PARTICULARLY AMONG THE NON-ETHNIC CHINESE POPULATION IN SINKIANG. ACCORDING TO HIM, THE CHINESE REPLY BY CLAIMING THAT RUSSIA OCCUPIES 500,000 SQUARE KILOMETERS OF SINKIANG AND COVETS THE REST. HE ENDS THE ARTICLE BY DESCRIBING THE MOSCOW BORDER-GUARD MUSEUM WHERE THE GUIDE SPEAKS OF MAOIST PROVOCATIONS AGAINST SOVIET SOVEREIGNTY IN 1969 AND POINTS TO RIFLES OF SOVIET MANUFACTURE TAKEN FROM FALLEN CHINESE SOLDIERS, GIVEN TO THEM GRATIS BY THE SOVIETS DURING A HAPPIER TIME.

6. COMMENT. IN A DESPATCH FROM MOSCOW JUNE 26, LE FIGARO CORRESPONDENT CLAIMS VIKTOR LOUIS "ORCHESTRATED" THE DEPARTURE OF ILICHEV FOR PEKING, WHICH SUGGESTS THERE MAY BE OTHER ARTICLES BY HIM ON THIS SUBJECT. WE AGREE WITH EMBASSY MOSCOW'S ASSESSMENT THAT THIS ARTICLE IS PART OF PROPAGANDA EFFORT TO BUTTRESS ILICHEV'S POSITION AS HE RESUMES THE BORDER TALKS. CHOICE OF FRANCE SOIR, ONE OF FRANCE'S MOST WIDELY READ NEWSPAPERS, FOR ITS PUBLICATION, HOWEVER, SUGGESTS SPECIFIC FRENCH ANGLE MAY ALSO BE INVOLVED. WE HAVE HEARD THAT SOVIET EMBASSY HAS BEEN CONCERNED OVER POSSIBILITY OF SOME SWING IN POLICY OF NEW GISCARD GOVERNMENT TOWARD PEKING. ARTICLE MAY THUS HAVE BEEN DESIGNED TO HELP BUILD UP FAVORABLE SOVIET IMAGE AT EXPENSE OF CHINESE. THAT IMAGE COMES THROUGH IN THE ARTICLE AS ONE OF PATIENCE COMBINED WITH FIRM RESOLVE TO RESPOND TO THE CHINESE IN KIND.
STONE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, PROPAGANDA, ANTISOVIET, SINO SOVIET DISPUTES, PRISONERS WELFARE, BORDER INCIDENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PARIS15798
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740170-0544
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974068/aaaaagoy.tel
Line Count: 200
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) MOSCOW 10029; (B) HONG KONG 7219
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 APR 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <24 JUN 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VIKTOR LOUIS ARTICLE ON SINO-SOVIET TENSION
TAGS: PFOR, CH, UR, US, FR, (LOUIS, VIKTOR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005